

Council sets out to costs of Dale Farm



■ Rathkeale link – John "Porkey" Sheridan



■ Dale Farm links – homes on the Monkhill estate, in Rathkeale, Ireland

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BASILDON Council is keen to recoup the costs of a multi-million pound Dale Farm eviction – and the search is set to travel across the Irish Sea.

Council bosses will look at properties in Rathkeale, County Limerick, where an Echo exclusive investigation in September revealed some families own large houses.

Malcolm Buckley, Basildon councillor responsible for the environment, said: "We will be looking to pursue the former occupants of Dale Farm."

"Part of it will mean seeing if we are able to seize any assets from overseas. We will be looking to see if we can confirm anyone from Dale Farm as owning property in Ireland."

News of the quest comes as the Echo can reveal a "homeless" Dale Farm traveller, who is taking the council to court over the "unsuitability" of alternative housing offered to him, returns to an Irish mansion each Christmas.

John "Porkey" Sheridan, 35, is the latest traveller from Crays Hill camp, near Billericay, to be linked to property in Rathkeale.

Mr Sheridan is one of three legal aid funded people due to argue in London's Court of Appeal next month how the council offer of flats was "culturally inappropriate".

They were offered flats after registering as homeless.

However, a source connected to travellers in Rathkeale said: "His family have a mansion in Monk Hill

100 EMPTY HOMES



IN TRAVELLER TOWN



■ Flashback – the Echo's investigation in September



■ Spiritual home – Pound Lane, in Rathkeale